How to select your Christmas tree

DOVER - As America rediscovers her roots in tradition, more and more families each year are turning to a living symbol of the Christmas season — a fresh. natural evergreen tree.

Most folks still rely on "choose and cut" farms, where generally you cut the tree you select, or one of the many vendors who display their trees at garden centers or retail lots this time of year.

No matter what method you use, the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree **Growers Association recommends** these guidelines for selecting a tree and setting it up at home. SHOPPING

Freshness is extremely important to tree buyers, and there are two tests for it. First, gently bend a needle between your fingers. A fresh tree's needles will easily bend. If the needle breaks, the tree is drying out. Second, hoise the tree a few inches above the ground adn bounce it sharply on its butt to dislodge old brown needles that shed naturally in the Fall. If an excessive number of green needles drops, look for another tree.

The fragrance of fresh trees is a common reason people buy them. Fraser and Balsam firs are noted for having the most distinct "evergreen" aroma, while the various pines rank somewhat lower. Spruces are among the least aromatic trees. But the most fragrant evergreen of all is the Concolor or "white" fir. A little more difficult to find, this tree smells like a fresh orange and makes a great conversation piece.

Size. Simply put, don't buy too much tree. That magnificent seven-footer might look terrific on the lot, but the added height given to it by a tree stand and the "topper" could be more than your eight-foot ceiling can accommodate. And don't forget to measure the thickness of the trunk. Make sure it will fit through your tree stand's collar.

AT HOME

Water is one thing your tree will need right away. Before putting it into the stand, make a fresh cut about one inch above the end. This will let the tree absorb water quickly, keeping it fresher longer. Once you've cut the trunk, get it in the water quickly. Otherwise, the cut wil begin to seal itself and defeat the purpose.

Keep the water level well above the cut, and check it every day. There's no need to add sugar, corn syrup, aspirin or other chemicals; according to the Association, plain water is the best holiday beverage for your tree.

Check every strand of lights for frayed cords, burned-out bulbs, cracking insulation or other defects. When you spot one, repair or replace it. Apart from creating a potential fire hazard, using damaged electrical products can result in a nasty shock.

Fire resistant. A fresh Christmas tree is naturally fire resistant because it has a high moisture content. If you keep the base of the trunk soaking continuously in water, the tree will remain both fresh and flame resistant. Both characteristics have been confirmed in a study by the Connecticut Agricultural Experimenting Station. For added insurance, be sure you:

 don't use candles illumination

· don't smoke near the tree

 keep the tree away from drying sources of heat

• unplug all lights when you leave the home or go to bed

Selecting and caring for a fresh Christmas tree doesn't take any special skills or abundance of time, but it can brighten your home physically and emotionally. It can bring back childhood memories, or serve as the foundation for building new ones.

USDA payments down 9% in '84

WASHINGTON - Government payments to farmers in 1984 totaled \$8.4 billion, 9 percent less than the previous year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 1984 report of Economic Indicators of the Farm Sector.

Direct cash payments for deficiency, diversion, disaster, storage and conservation programs totaled \$4 billion, down slightly from \$4 1 billion in 1983.

Payment-in-kind disbursements totaled \$4.5 billion, following the \$5.2 billion in 1983, leaving total 1984 direct Government payments at \$8.4 billion.

According to the report, wheat deficiency, diversion and disaster payments accounted for the largest share of cash payments, totaling almost \$1.8 billion, including \$1.2 billion in deficiency payments. Feed grain program payments were down considerably, totaling \$367 million, with \$296 million in deficiency payments.

Pennsylvania farmers received close to \$6.5 million in deficiency payments for corn, barley, sorghum and wheat and 1984 Wheat Diversion Program payments amounting to \$238,263. Conservation program payments amounted to a little over \$3.5 million (\$3,568,292). Conservation programs include the regular Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), the Long Term Agreement (ACP), Forestry Incentives Program, and the Rural Clean Water Program.

Rural Clean Water Program. Under the various ASCS conservation programs, farmers pay a portion of the cost of putting conservation measures on their land. This means that the total amount of conservation work done on farms is almost double when the farmers' share is taken into ac-

With purchase of a new Mix-All

Choice of:

- 1.4 Cu. Ft. Hotpoint Microwave Oven
- 17" GE Color TV
- GE VHS Videocassette Recorder with remote control

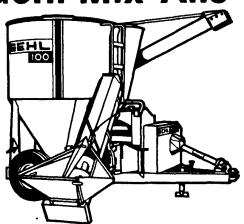
Offer good on Model 100 or 135 Mix-All grinder-mixer purchased between October 1, 1985 and December 31, 1985.

A Mix-All is a complete feedmaking system on wheels. Grinds the widest range of forage possible... with precise control over grinding and mixing.

Buy now . . . delay final payment to June 1, 1986. Interest free!

(With 30% down, cash or trade.)

Hydraulic Gehl Mix-Alls®



Gehl's Put Good Ideas to Work in a hydraulic grinder-mixer for less maintenance, easier operation. The 100-bushel Mix-All unloads as quickly as 31/2 minutes. Features include the big 21" mill with 66 reversible hammers, hydraulically driven in-feed attachments with infinite speed control, and quick-change screens for faster performance and operating convenience. Stop by and see the hydraulic 100 Mix-All today!

Buy now...delay final payment

With 30% down payment, cash or trade-in, you can pur chase the Gehl equipment listed below, and the balance won't be due until the date shown . . . interest free!

...to June 1, 1986

Grinder Mixers-MX100/135

Skid Steer Loaders-

SL3310/3410/3510/3610/4510/4610/LT8500 Trailer Forage Harvesters-CB760/1060/1260 w/attachments

Flail Chopper—FC7200

Forage Blowers—FB99/1540/1580

Round Balers-RB1450/1460/1850/1860

Bale Handler—BH1500

Disc Mower Conditioners—DC2230/2350

Disc Mowers—DM140/160 Wheel Rakes-WR204/206/308/310

...to July 1, 1986

Forage Harvesters--CB750/1000/1200/1250

w/attachments

Forage Boxes-BU640/650/960

Mower Conditioners—MC2130/2160/2230/2262

...to September 1, 1986

Forage Harvesters sold with row crop attachment (corn head) only--CB750/760/1000/1060/1200/1250/1260. Great equipment plus a good way to improve your

See us today.

See Your Dealer Today

STOUFFER BROS. INC. Chambersburg, PA 717-263-8424

SUMMIT SYSTEMS, INC. Breezewood, PA 800-242-3240

814-735-3293

UMBERGER'S OF FONTANA

Rt 4 Lebanon, PA (Fontana)

717-867-5161

PEOPLE'S

SALES & SERVICE Oakland Mills, PA 717-463-2735

LEBANON VALLEY IMPLEMENT CO., INC. Richland, PA 717-866-7518

> A.L. HERR & BRO. Quarryville, PA 717-786 3521

GEO. W. KINSMAN, INC.

516 Main Street Honesdale, PA 717-253-3440

HINES EQUIPMENT Cresson, PA 814-886-4183 Bellwood

814-742-8171

PETERMAN FARM EQUIPMENT, INC.

225 York Rd Carlisle, PA 717-249-5338

BINKLEY & HURST BROS.

133 Rothsville **Station Road** Lititz, PA 717-626-4705

BENNETT MACHINE CO. 1601 S Dupont Bivd Miltord, DE

302-422-4837

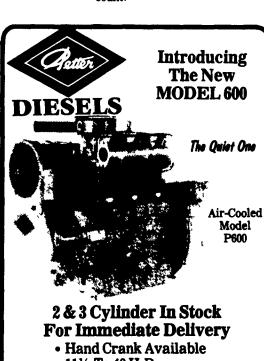
NICHOLS FARM EQUIPMENT Bloomsburg, PA

717-784 7731 301-733-0515

MILLER EQUIPMENT CO. RD 1 Bechtelsville, PA 215-845-2911

ECKROTH BROS. FARM EQUIPMENT RT 2 Box 24A New Ringgold, PA 717-943-2131

ARNETT'S GARAGE Rt 9 Box 125 Hagerstown, MD



• 11½ To 40 H.P.

All Servicing Done From One Side Of Engine

Need A Larger Dairy Diesel? GIVE US A TRY! CHECK OUR PRICES DIESELS OUR SPECIALTY Let Us Know Your Service Problems

AUTHORIZED PETTER DISTRIBUTOR

HOOVER DIESEL SERVICE

Main Location PH: 717-656-3322 717-295-1729 2998 West Newport Rd. Ronks, PA 17572 21/2 miles East of Leola

Along Rt. 772

Branch Location PH: 717-786-2173 RD 3, Box 91A Quarryville, PA 17566 2 miles West of Georgetown on Furnace Rd.

DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED